

Appl. No.: (not yet assigned)

Filed: October 21, 2003

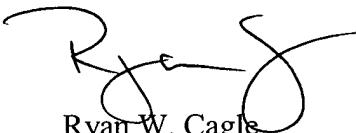
Page 8

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends the specification in the Cross-Reference to Related Applications section. Further, claims 9-12 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



Ryan W. Cagle
Registration No. 47,468

Customer No. 00826

ALSTON & BIRD LLP

Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Raleigh Office (919) 862-2200
Fax Raleigh Office (919) 862-2260

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV184330236US

Date of Deposit: October 21, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Rebecca Kerney
Rebecca Kerney